



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on or before the date shown below.

*Eugene R. Montalvo*  
Eugene R. Montalvo

Date: May 8, 2001

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of )

DONALD WAYNE ALLEN ET AL. )

Serial No. 08/970,312 )

Filed November 14, 1997 )

FAIRED TRUSS SPAR )

Group Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: J. Lee

May 8, 2001

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED FEBRUARY 20, 2001**

Hon. Assistant Commissioner  
of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attorney in the above-captioned case hereby responds to the Office Action mailed February 20, 2001. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-8 were pending.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 were pending when the Office Action issued. Attorney thanks the Examiner for the approval of the corrections to the substitute sheets of drawings filed on December 11, 2000.

**Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

In numbered paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2 and 6 as being obvious under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horton '467, in view of PCT publication (WO 95/26294), and in further view of Jones '605. Attorney respectfully traverses the rejection. Attorney also notes that the PCT publication corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,875,728 and that the specification of the

GP 3673  
#16 Rec'd  
Reg 26  
PATENT  
TH-0776X (US)  
ERM:SWT  
5/18/01

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 16 2001**

**TO 3600 MAIL ROOM**